

1988
Freeman Tilden
Awards

WINNERS

National Winner Southeast Region

Sylvia Flowers, Park Ranger at Ocmulgee National Monument, excels in the field of interpretation. The highlight of her interpretive work at Ocmulgee has been the development of the Dr Charles H Fairbanks Memorial Discovery Lab. A group of professional educators and archaeologists met to think of ways to improve the park's interpretive program. The idea of a classroom came out of the meeting. Sylvia added the "discovery" and "self-guiding" concepts and originated the plan for the lab. She designed the



Sylvia Flowers, Ocmulgee

layout and encouraged community support and funding. The Discovery Lab has been a tremendous success. Since the dedication of the lab in 1986, more than 12,000 children have used the lab, and more than 300 teachers have participated in the park-conducted teacher workshops. Sylvia has won the admiration and recognition of many audiences outside the park. This acclaim has had a great impact on the effectiveness of the park's total interpretive program.

Regional Winners

Congratulations! It is highly appropriate to announce the National and Regional recipients of the 1988 Freeman Tilden Award in this issue of *Interpretation*. They are ten rangers who brought magic into their interpretation in 1987 and have received the highest honor for their work.

This is the seventh year that the Tilden Award has been presented. It is an award program cooperatively sponsored by the National Park Service and the National Parks and Conservation Association. The National winner receives a bronze bust of Freeman Tilden and a \$2500 award provided by KC Publications. All ten of these individuals are to be congratulated for their outstanding contributions to the National Park Service interpretive effort.

Thanks for making magic in the Tilden tradition!

Michael D Watson
Chief, Division of Interpretation



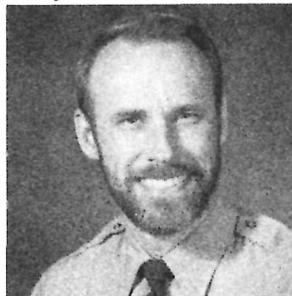
Nancy Medlin, Denali



David Smith, Rock Creek



Jay Shuler, Badlands



Douglas P Thompson, Colonial



Janice Killackey, Longfellow



Toni Cooper, Hot Springs



Robert Holden, G R Clark



David Clark, Craters of the Moon



Dan Sealy, Golden Gate

Alaska Region

Nancy C Medlin, Lead Interpretive Supervisor at Denali National Park is strongly committed to interpretation. Nancy has the superior ability to motivate, audit, and evaluate employees. Her audits are supportive, open, and very helpful. She is a highly skilled interpreter. One example of her creativity was her idea of supporting "Take Pride in America" by suggesting an essay contest with the winning essay to be published in the "Denali Alpenglow," the park's newspaper. She developed guidelines, secured prizes, and arranged for seasonal interpreters to announce the contest at evening programs. Nancy is deeply committed to quality interpretation. She is a teacher of interpretation who actively reaches out to all employees. Her efforts directly improve the visitor's park experience. The second part of Nancy's selection is based on her superior performance as a seasonal interpreter at Lassen Volcanic National Park during the winter season of 1987. Her enthusiasm and innovation with park visitors greatly added to the quality of the interpretive program at the park.

Mid-Atlantic Region

Douglas P Thompson, Supervisory Park Ranger at Colonial National Historical Park, excels in the selection, training, and auditing of interpretive services. He has developed a series of aids to assist the new employee in adjusting to the National Park Service, the park, and individual tasks. These aids consist of an Interpreter's Handbook which is updated every season, a Yorktown Battlefield Research Guide which addresses virtually every historic question an interpreter will encounter, and a handbook which emphasizes the role of the supervisor as a coach rather than a judge. In addition, Douglas is an accomplished interpretive planner and designer. He and his staff developed a successful educational program to meet the needs of the Newport News school system. He developed a basic map and site bulletin to help guide visitors around the battlefield. Douglas is also an instructor for park orientation and interpretive skills courses at Colonial and other NPS sites. He teaches how to develop museum exhibits and how to evaluate interpretive presentations. Douglas's contributions provided quality personal services to some 450,000 visitors in 1987.

Midwest Region

Robert Holden, Chief, Interpretation and Resource Management at George Rogers Clark National Historical Park, is recognized for his leadership role in the park's and the MNR's celebration of the Bicentennial of the Northwest Ordinance. Bob initiated the idea for a public ceremony held on July 13, 1987. He then participated in the planning and execution of this highly successful program. As a major outreach effort on the Northwest Ordinance, Bob developed a special section for the park's 1987 *Teacher's Information Guide*, wrote a series of Ordinance Bicentennial moments for the local radio stations, assisted the MNR office in the development of a unigridd folder, and wrote a series of front-page newspaper articles on the history of Vincennes and a special feature newspaper supplement article. In addition to this special project and others, Bob participated in the regular interpretive program. His extensive reading and research have given him the ability to interpret to all visitors, even the most knowledgeable frontier history buffs, in a way that stimulates them to learn more about the Old Northwest. Bob's continued outstanding interpretive efforts made George Rogers Clark NHP a major focus of history with both park visitors and the general public in 1987.

National Capital Region

David Smith, Park Ranger at Rock Creek Park, is recognized for his excellent interpretive abilities. As the park's historian, David is involved in gathering research and verifying historical and cultural data of the various facets of the park. Starting from scratch, David successfully compiled an impressive historic reference file system that continues to grow. The system is used for developing interpretive programs, responding to inquiries by visitors, and assisting Professional Services with the preparation of papers. David single-handedly planned, organized and implemented several special events, including the annual celebration of Fort Stevens and the Richard Parrott rope walk at Montrose Park. One of his most successful projects was the organization of programs related to the Bicentennial of the Constitution Celebration for Rock Creek Park. On several occasions, David successfully served as Acting Site Supervisor of the Nature Center. On each occasion, he was attentive, cooperative, and easy to work with. David's broad range of skills and talents make him an outstanding interpreter.

North Atlantic Region

Janice Killackey, Park Ranger at Longfellow National Historic Site, is noted for her excellent contribution to the field of interpretation. Her main area of responsibility at the site has been to develop outreach programs which involve the community in park programming. Janice initiated a successful series of poetry readings through her contacts with a local poetry club. She also developed and produced a program for nursing home residents which has helped to uphold the image of the National Park Service as a government agency that cares. Janice designed a children's program that introduces children to the NPS and Longfellow NHS. The objective of the program is to introduce children to the world of poetry and to the larger world of their imaginations. Each child is encouraged to discover his or her inherent ability to create, to put ideas into words, and to write poetry. In addition, Janice developed a children's program at John F Kennedy NHS where she was detailed for part of last year. This program encouraged children to learn not only about President Kennedy but also about themselves and their own heritage. Her dedication to interpretation has greatly added to the successful interpretive programs at both Longfellow NHS and John F Kennedy NHS.

Pacific Northwest Region

David Clark, Park Ranger at Craters of the Moon National Monument, has been capable of meeting demands and his own set of goals, during this time of limited funding. Dave feels that reaching students should be a major emphasis of the interpretive program. When staffing and time limitations prevented meeting all of the requests for school programs, Dave contacted Idaho State University to see if there was interest in a Teachers' Workshop so that teachers could put on their own programs when visiting Craters of the Moon. The university agreed, and the first three-day, accredited course was presented to 22 teachers. Dave taught part of the course and coordinated other instructors as well. The workshop was a success and is being continued in 1988. Dave also presented the need for a comprehensive volume on the Snake River Plain to the faculty of Boise State University. The faculty became enthusiastic and have entered into an agreement with the Natural History Association to publish the work. Dave is on the editorial board that oversees the project. In addition, Dave oversaw the complete recataloging of the museum collection at the monument. Over 2,000 items were completely recataloged, inventoried, and properly stored. Dave has found the means to accomplish every goal he has set, regardless of limitations.

Rocky Mountain Region

James B (Jay) Shuler, Chief Interpreter at Badlands National Park, is recognized for many projects that have contributed to the excellent interpretive programs. He wrote a wayside exhibit and plan for 39 exhibits covering 60 miles of park roads as well as a Wayside Exhibit Plan for Pipe Spring National Monument. The wayside exhibit plans for both Badlands NP and Pipe Spring NM were reviewed and approved by Harpers Ferry Center. As a result of these cooperative efforts, outdated and disintegrating exhibits will be replaced by new ones. Jay coordinated the production of a 15-minute park video by developing the concepts, co-writing the script, directing the field videography, and obtaining the graphics. He laid out the Medicine Root Loop Trail for the 1987 Badlands 10K Volksmarch. The trail was later added to the park's permanent trail system. He planned the remodeling of the park's amphitheater, preserving the charm of the old structure while bringing in new AV equipment to improve evening programs and making access easier for disabled visitors. In addition, Jay wrote and designed the park newspaper. Jay's unprecedented number of projects will inform and inspire visitors for years to come.

Southwest Region

Toni Cooper, Interpreter at Hot Springs National Park, is greatly committed to interpretation in the National Park Service. One of Toni's principle duties is the information desk, dealing with approximately 200,000 visitors per year. In addition to handling this desk herself, Toni oversees a complex operation of Senior Aides, Cooperating Association employees, and volunteers. Toni has a knack for presenting complex matters in a manner that is easy to understand. Toni has prepared five different campfire programs which are all well-prepared and richly illustrated. Visitors go out of their way to tell park staff of Toni's pleasant manner, effectiveness, and competence. Behind the scenes, Toni successfully manages the park's collection of 10,000 slides. She provides invaluable assistance to seasonals in preparing programs. She even seeks extra duties. She is the Minority Employment Coordinator on the EO Committee and serves on the Safety Committee. Toni's contributions to interpretation help shape visitors attitudes and understanding of the parks and the Service in a positive way.

Western Region

Dan Sealy, Park Ranger at Golden Gate National Recreation Area continuously defends quality interpretation and is always one of the first individuals called upon to assist with training new and experienced interpreters. In addition to his regular responsibilities, Dan coordinated, developed, and installed a major temporary exhibit for the Visitor Center which uses cartoons to explain the role of a park ranger. Visitors enjoyed the display while learning to appreciate some of the challenges of park rangers. Dan worked with a local community college to acquire another unique art form - The Fantastic Creatures, papier-mache animals made by college students. The animals demonstrated adaptations which could be translated to actual creatures found at Marin Headlands. The cartoons and fantastic creatures were the most popular displays of the year. However, his true accomplishment is in inspiring others. Dan believes, with all his heart, in what he is doing. He creates an atmosphere of appreciation for every resource from wild flowers to gun batteries. The visiting public gains a rare insight into the National Park Service and the resources it tries to protect. Some of the National Park Service's most talented interpreters are merely following Dan's example.